Educationally backward regions in the country

1509. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Union Territories and States in the country considered educationally backward before the commencement of the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) the steps taken by Government to help such Union Territories| States for the removal of educational backwardness during the Seventh Five Year Plan and the success achieved in this regard so far; and

(c) the particulars of the areas in Punjab which have been covered under such a scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) The following nine States were categorised educationally backward by the Planning Commission Working Group on Elementary Education 1977, *viz.* Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Jammu & Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

(b) During the first two years of the Seventh Five Year Plan *viz.* 1985-86 and 1986-87, the following three schemes are being implemented exclusively in the nine educationally backward States:—

(1) Non-Formal Education Programme for setting up and running NFE Centres.

(2) Appointment of women teachers in primary schools for increasing girls' enrolment; and

(3) Early childhood education for 3 to 6 age-group for setting up and running ECE Centres.

The Scheme of Non-formal Education has been expanded and improved. Arunachal Pradesh has been added as the 10th educationally backward States and the revised schemes also covers all the States and Union Territories in urban slums, hilly, desert and tribal areas, and areas with concentration of working children. Till date 909 NFE Projects have been sanctioned and grants released for operating 1,74,744 centres. Under the scheme of appointment of women teachers, grants were released for appointment of 8000 women teachers. Under the Early Childhood Education scheme, grants amounting to Rs. 337.99 lakhs have been released to voluntary agencies in the nine educationally backward States.

The Scheme of appointment women teachers has now been su sumed into the schemes of Operati Blackboard from 1987-88. T scheme of Operation Blackboard is applicable to all States and Union Territories and will help to bring all Primary Schools upto the minimum required standard which will in effect be a special assistance to backward areas.

(c) Punjab was not classified as an educationally backward State. No grants were released to that State under these schemes.

External (Assistance for Development of National Highways and State Highways

1510. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal

under Government's consideration to seek external assistance for the development of National Highways and State Highways;

(b) if so, the steps taken on that direction;

(c) whether Asian Development Bank has offered credit for the development of National Highways and State Highways; and

(d) if so, the details of the offer made by Asian Development Bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The process of identification of projects by the external financial agencies is under way.

(c) and (d) The Asian Development Bank has shown interest in providing loan assistance for National Highways and State Road Projects serving the industrial areas. There is, however, no firm offer as yet.

P.H.C. in the country

1511. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any criteria has been fixed by the Government for setting up of Primary Health Centres in the country during Seventh-Five-Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of Primary Health Centres that have been set up and are likely to be set up in Orissa and each State (State-wise) on the first three years of the Seventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (c) It has been envisaged that during the Seventh Plan, States and Union Territories will establish a Primary Health Centre for every 30,000 rural population in general areas and 20,000 population in tribal hilly areas by 1990. Details of State-wise target for setting up Primary Health Centres and the achievement in first three years of the Plan (upto December, 1987) is given in the closed statement.

Statement

States/U.Ts.	7th plan Target	Achievement		
		1985-86	1986-87	1987-8 (upto Dec. 1
1. Andhra Pradesh.	1150	527		1
2. Arunachal Pradesh	25	6		6
3. Assam	200	33		59
4. Bihar	1500	205		200